

A SUMMARY OF THE PROGRAM TO TRANSPORT MINORITY STUDENTS FROM  
CHICAGO HIGH SCHOOLS TO ENGINEERING OPEN HOUSE AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN, MARCH 10, 1972

This is a summary of a cooperative effort made by the Black Engineering Students Association (B.E.S.A.) in the College of Engineering, cooperating Industrial Groups and the College of Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. A decision was made to attempt to transport a group of minority students from Chicago High Schools to Engineering Open House to be held on March 10, 1972. The primary purpose of this effort was to provide a number of minority students an opportunity to be exposed to the field of engineering and to become acquainted with the engineering educational facilities. This was done with the belief that few of the minority students were aware of the opportunities in engineering and related fields.

The College undertook the raising of funds to cover the cost of the busing program and the B.E.S.A. was responsible for contacting the Chicago High Schools and making arrangements for their students to participate. As a result of this effort, 575 minority students, advisers and parents (13 bus loads) came to the University to participate in the Engineering Open House. The high school students came from the following schools:

<u>High Schools and Locations</u>	<u>High School Staff Member in Charge of Arrangements</u>
Robert Lindblom High School 6130 South Walcott Chicago, IL 60636	Mrs. Ruth Thurn
John Harlan High School 9652 South Michigan Chicago, IL 60628	Miss Childs
Neal R. Simeon High School 8235 South Vincennes Chicago, IL 60620	Mr. Curry
Wendell Phillips High School 244 E. Pershing Chicago, IL 60653	Mr. Knight
Paul L. Dunbar High School 3000 King Drive Chicago, IL 60616	Mrs. Shanklin
De LaSalle High School 3455 So. Wabash Chicago, IL 60616	Brother Luke Lynch
Calumet High School 8131 So. May Chicago, IL 60620	Mrs. Saddler



<u>High Schools and Locations</u>	<u>High School Staff Members in Charge of Arrangements</u>
E. G. Hirsch High School 7740 S. Ingleside Chicago, IL 60619	Mr. Beverly
St. Mel High School 119 S. Central Park Avenue Chicago, IL 60624	Sister Nicki
David C. Farragut High School 2345 S. Christina Chicago, IL 60623	Mr. Larry Flourney
Hales Franciscan 4930 S. Cottage Grove Chicago, IL 60615	Father Mickel and Joseph Maffa

The high school students arrived between 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. and were met by members of B.E.S.A. The students were given a very brief orientation while they were still on the bus and were then taken on tours of Engineering Open House. Most of the tours broke up about noon and the students were on their own to continue through the Engineering Open House exhibits. The group gathered in the Auditorium at 3 o'clock in the afternoon for a final session. The program presented at that time featured brief talks by several black engineering students, black professors and black administrators associated with our Special Educational Opportunities Program. This program was handled entirely by members of B.E.S.A. and was extremely effective - especially in identifying the hopes, the desires and the problems of presently enrolled students and relating them to prospective students. The visiting students seemed to identify very well with the persons giving this presentation. This program ended at approximately 4:30 p.m. The students then came back to the loading area and boarded the buses for the return trip to Chicago.

Without a doubt this has been the most successful and extensive effort ever made by this college to inform minority students in the Chicago area of the opportunities in engineering and technology. We were impressed with the quality of the students who took advantage of this opportunity and the high schools selected were extremely cooperative in this effort. It will be difficult to follow these students as a group except as we can identify them as they seek admission to this institution. An effort will be made to measure the effectiveness of this program as it relates to enrollment in this college.

The companies supporting this project were:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Contact Person(s)</u>
Standard Oil Company (Indiana)	Mr. Phillip T. Drotning
The Peoples Gas Light and Coke Company (A subsidiary of Peoples Gas Company)	Mr. George Charles and Mr. W. G. Klupar



LINDBLOM TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

6130 SOUTH WOLCOTT AVENUE

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60636

PATRICK F. AHERN

PRINCIPAL

RECEIVED

MAR 16 1972

DEAN'S OFFICE  
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

RECEIVED

MAR 20 1972

ASSOCIATE DEAN'S OFFICE  
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

March 15, 1972

Dean D. C. Druckner  
College of Engineering  
University of Illinois  
Urbana, Illinois 61801

Dear Dean Drucker:

On Friday, March 10, 1972, a group of one hundred sixty eight students from Lindblom Technical High School, attended the Engineering Open House at the University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois. Upon returning to Chicago, these students expressed a high degree of satisfaction with the trip.

It was apparent that the Open House had aroused within them a new awareness of the engineering field. They were highly impressed with the competency of the demonstrators at each exhibit. None was ever too busy to answer their questions.

We appreciate the efforts on your part to coordinate such an affair. We are pleased that Lindblom Technical High School could be a part of your program.

Since this program is an annual event, we would appreciate being included next year since our chief mission is preparation of students to enter colleges of engineering and science.

Sincerely,

*Patrick F. Ahern*  
Patrick F. Ahern  
Principal

PFA:n

CC: Mr. Frank W. Thomson,  
Superintendent, District 15  
Chicago Public Schools